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Link to Shooting of Pope Called Absurd by Soviet

MOSCOW, Aug. 18 (AP) — The Soviet Union has denounced an American magazine article that said the Soviet Union and its allies might have assisted the Turk who shot Pope John Paul II last year.

The article, written by Claire Sterling and published in the September issue of Reader's Digest, said the shooting by the Turk, Mehmet Ali Agca, appeared to have been organized by Bulgarian intelligence agents on directions from the Soviet Union.

The Moscow radio said, "The absurdity and unfoundedness of this claim are obvious."